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Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventieth session

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventieth session

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.22

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.22 (A/C.5/73/12). During its consideration of the statement, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 6 December 2018.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 18 of draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.22, the General Assembly would take note of paragraph 395 of the report of the International Law Commission (A/73/10) and decide that the next session of the Commission would be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 29 April to 7 June and from 8 July to 9 August 2019.

3. In the statement, the Secretary-General indicates that the draft resolution would entail additional resource requirements in the amount of $128,100, comprising travel expenses for members for seven additional days ($114,900) and travel expenses for staff for seven additional days ($13,200). It is further stated that the requested resources would be in addition to the amount of $3,008,100 included in the programme budget for 2018–2019 under section 8, Legal affairs, for the International Law Commission, which was based on an 11-week session in 2018 and a 10-week session in 2019, with an assumed average attendance at the annual session of 82 per cent of the membership (see A/C.5/73/12, paras. 4 and 5).

4. The statement of the Secretary-General indicates that it is not possible to identify activities within section 8 of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 that

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could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium, and it would therefore be necessary that these requested resources be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium (A/C.5/73/12, para. 7).

5. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 30 November 2018, total expenditures under section 8, Legal affairs, amounted to $34,349,900, representing 68.3 per cent of the initial appropriation of $50,311,200 for the biennium 2018–2019.

6. The Advisory Committee notes that the requested resources for the travel of members and staff for seven additional days would provide for an 11-week session in 2019. The Committee recalls its previous recommendation that adequate resources be provided to support the full duration of the meetings of the International Law Commission up to a total of 12 weeks per annum, as mandated by the General Assembly (A/72/7, para. III.37). The Committee further notes that expenditures under section 8, Legal affairs, at this stage of the biennium amounted to 68.3 per cent of the initial appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019. **Taking these factors into consideration, the Committee recommends approval of the requested resources in the amount of $128,100.**

7. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.22, additional resources in the amount of $128,100 would arise under section 8, Legal affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, representing a charge against the contingency fund.**